

Committee Rejects Motion to Remove Truman from Panel

Defense and Prosecution

Join in Ouster Attempt

by Michael Rothfeld

The tri-partite committee hearing the cases of nineteen CIA protestors defeated Tuesday a bipartisan move to unseat Dean David B. Truman from the board.

The move was initiated by the students' principal defense counsel Carl Rachlin, who reiterated his previous demand that Dean Truman be removed from the panel for allegedly "pre-judging" the case. In a surprise concession, the attorney for the University, Prof. William K. Jones of the Law School, joined with Mr. Rachlin in recommending to the committee that the Dean be disqualified from the proceedings.

After a hastily called recess lasting nearly two hours, committee chairman Curtis J. Berger, professor of law, announced that the panel was "satisfied" with Dean Truman's impartiality in the case and that the Dean would be permitted to retain his position on the board.

It is understood that the decision to allow Dean Truman to remain on the committee was reached only after a heated struggle among the panel members.

Other members of the tri-partite committee, composed of two administration representatives, two faculty members, and two students, include: Aaron Warner, professor of economics; Kevin Sullivan, associate dean of Graduate Faculties; David Lagsam '67, president of the Columbia University Student Council; and David Ment, a Teachers College student and former CUSC officer.

The committee was authorized by President Grayson Kirk to investigate the students' cases and to report its findings to him for final disposition.

The immediate grounds for the motion to dismiss Dean Truman was a letter mailed to the students who participated in the Feb. 8 sit-in, informing them of

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them. Although the letter was sent out over former Associate Dean John W. Alexander's signature, it was issued upon the direction of the Dean's Office, according to Dean Truman.

In asking for Dean Truman's removal from the board, Mr. Rachlin explained that his action was "in no way a reflection on the Dean's character, but that it is evident that in this case Dean Truman has already made up his mind." Professor Jones stated that he supported the motion because "we have to avoid not only impropriety, but the appearance of impropriety."